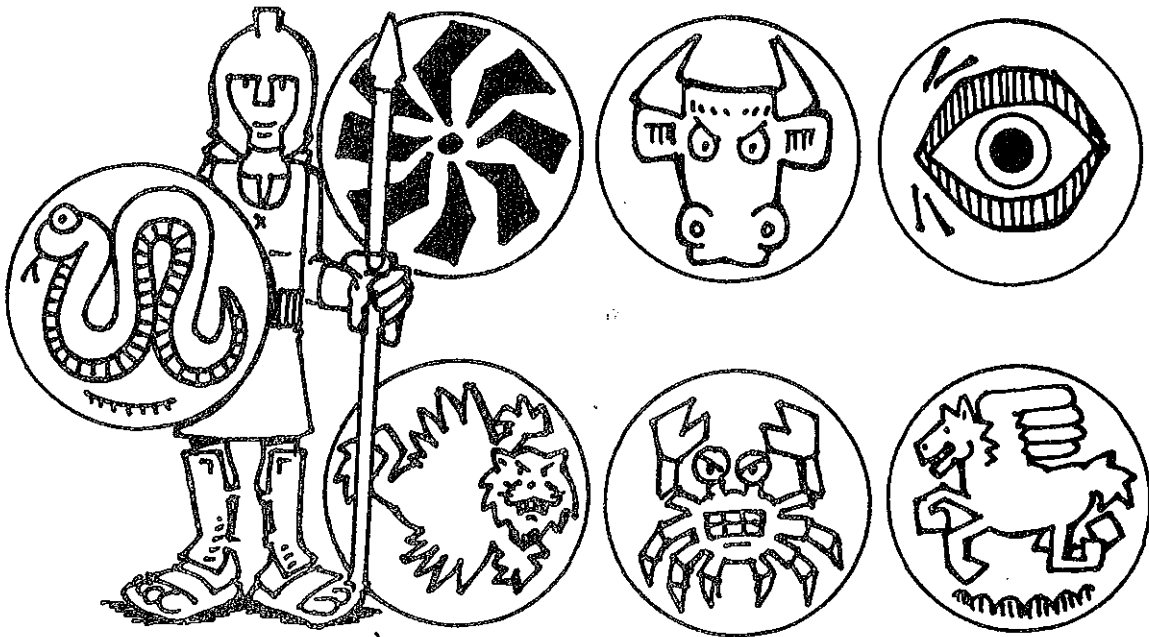


A Hoplite Shield

Foot soldiers called *hoplites* were the best-trained soldiers in the ancient Greek army. *Hoplites* were generally citizen-soldiers who served when necessary in defense of their city. Each *hoplite* used a large round shield (*hoplon*), a spear, and a sword, and usually wore a helmet, body armor, and greaves (leg guards).

Hoplites are famous for the use of a phalanx, a military formation where soldiers fought in lines, shoulder to shoulder. In this way each man was protected by the shield of the *hoplite* standing next to him. When they all marched forward together, no enemy spears or arrows could get through their wall of shields. This required good discipline, rigorous training, and precise coordination.

A *hoplon* was about three feet across. The shield was made of several layers: metal, wood, and linen, cloth, or leather. It could weigh as much as twenty pounds. Each *hoplite* chose his own shield design. Shields were decorated with painted designs showing people, animals, or monsters. The designs made it easy to tell one soldier from another. Soldiers often put scary faces on their shields to scare away the enemy.



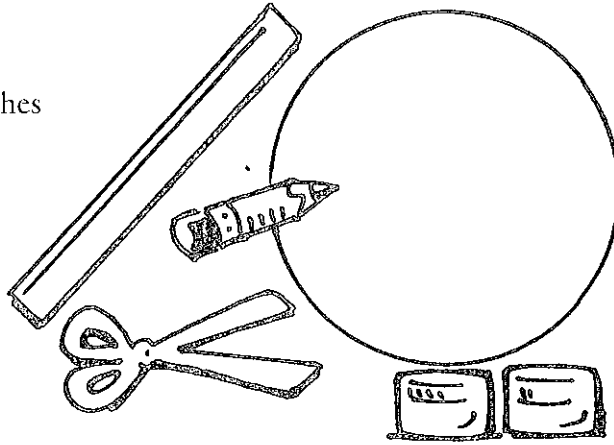
Project Description

Several renowned ancient Greece scholars will be attending the grand opening of the Ancient Greece Museum. You and your staff want to impress them with your knowledge of Greek warfare, but you also want a colorful display that will attract visitors and be educational at the same time. Study pictures of *hoplons* and then re-create one of them for the museum. You might also want to impress the experts by drawing a *hoplite* in full military regalia to be put on display alongside the shields.

A Hoplite Shield (continued)

Materials

drawing paper
 heavy cardboard, at least 24 x 24 inches
 pencil
 ruler
 scissors
 elastic, at least 1 inch wide
 masking tape
 scratch paper
 acrylic paints or marking pens
 paint brushes



Directions

1. Use a piece of drawing paper to make the design that you want on your *hoplon*. You can copy one of the ancient *hoplons* or create one of your own design. Remember to use traditional Greek patterns.
2. Draw a circle that is 24 inches in diameter on the cardboard.
3. Cut out the circle.
4. Draw the design on the shield in pencil and use marking pens or acrylic paints to color in the design.
5. Cut the elastic into two pieces, one five inches and one seven inches long.
6. Tape the elastic to the back of the shield as shown in the drawing. This will be where you put your arm to hold up the shield.

